



*Mike Huckabee*  
Governor of Arkansas  
Chairman

*Janet Napolitano*  
Governor of Arizona  
Vice Chair

*Raymond C. Scheppach*  
Executive Director

August 6, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Frist, Senator Reid, Speaker Hastert and Representative Pelosi:

The nation's governors strongly oppose legislation to allow the President to federalize the National Guard in a state without the consent of the governor. The House-passed version of the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 5122) would authorize the President to take control of the Guard in case of "a serious natural or manmade disaster, accident, or catastrophe that occurs in the United States, its territories and possessions, or Puerto Rico." This provision was drafted without consultation or input from governors and represents an unprecedented shift in authority from governors as Commanders and Chief of the Guard to the federal government.

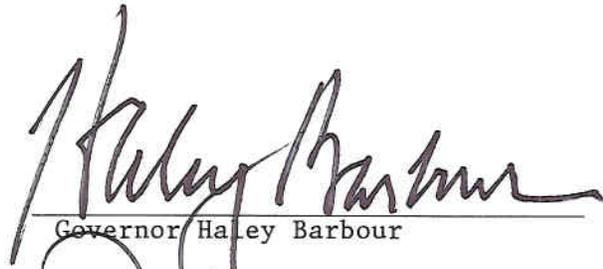
We take very seriously our constitutional duty to protect our citizens and lead our Guard. We are responsible for the safety and welfare of our citizens and are in the best position to coordinate all resources to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The current process by which we use our National Guard in emergencies and request federal assistance when necessary works well and should not be changed.

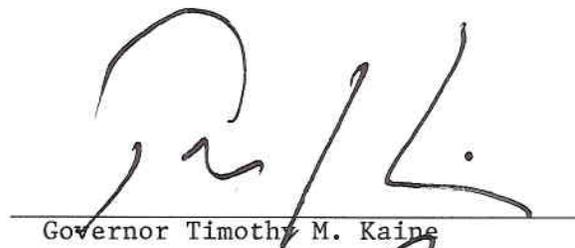
We urge you to drop provisions that would usurp governor's authority over the National Guard during emergencies from the conference agreement on the National Defense Authorization Act.

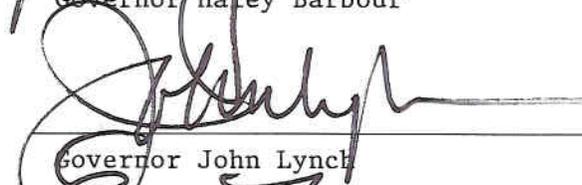
Sincerely,

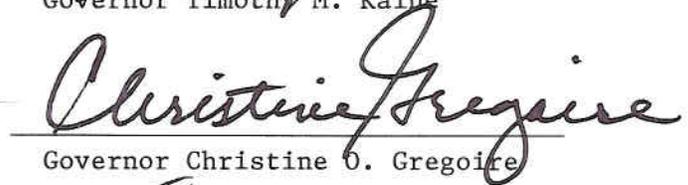
Governor Mike Huckabee

Governor Janet Napolitano

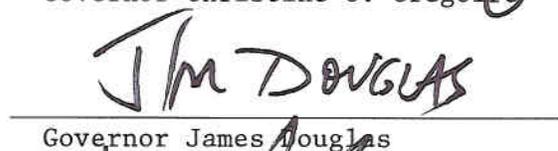
  
Governor Haley Barbour

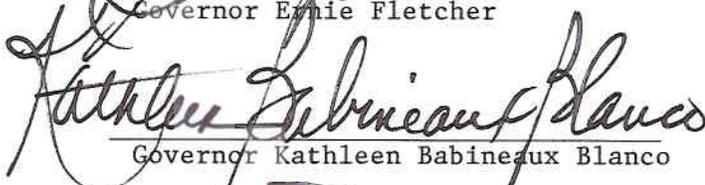
  
Governor Timothy M. Kaine

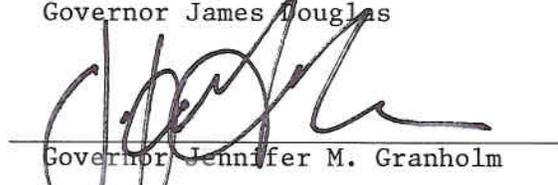
  
Governor John Lynch

  
Governor Christine O. Gregoire

  
Governor Ernie Fletcher

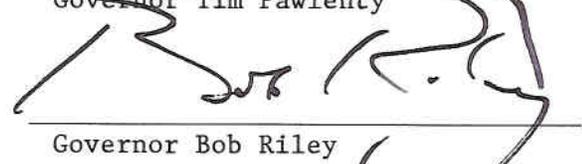
  
Governor James Douglas

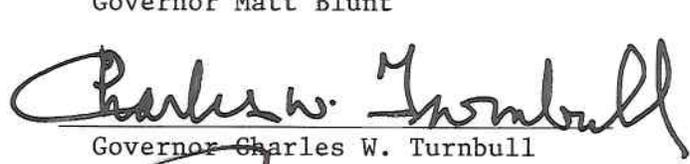
  
Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

  
Governor Jennifer M. Granholm

  
Governor Tim Pawlenty

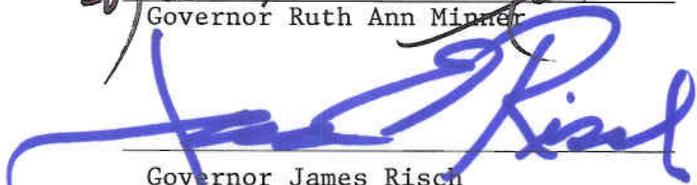
  
Governor Matt Blunt

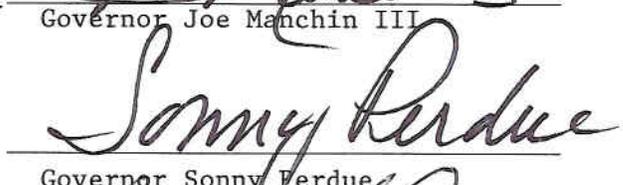
  
Governor Bob Riley

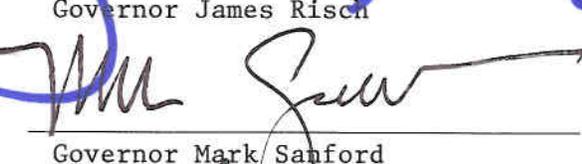
  
Governor Charles W. Turnbull

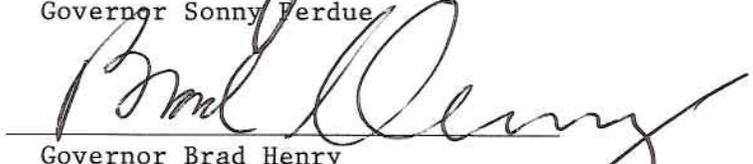
  
Governor Ruth Ann Minner

  
Governor Joe Manchin III

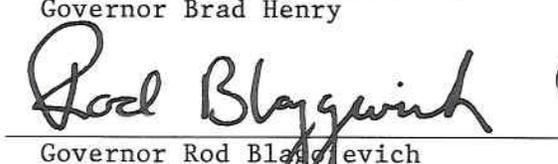
  
Governor James Risch

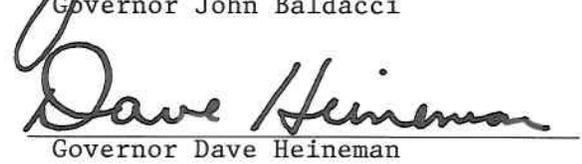
  
Governor Sonny Perdue

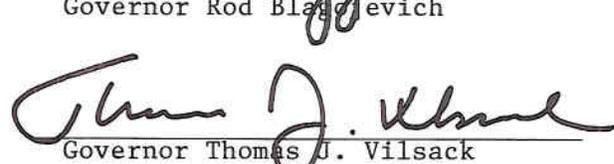
  
Governor Mark Sanford

  
Governor Brad Henry

  
Governor John Baldacci

  
Governor Rod Blagojevich

  
Governor Dave Heineman

  
Governor Thomas J. Vilsack

*Arnold Schwarzenegger*

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

*Bill Richardson*

Governor Bill Richardson

*M. Jodi Rell*

Governor M. Jodi Rell

*Jon S. Corzine*

Governor Jon S. Corzine

*Jeb Bush*

Governor Jeb Bush

*George E. Pataki*

Governor George E. Pataki

*Mitt Romney*

Governor Mitt Romney

*Theodore R. Kulongoski*

Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski

*Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.*

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.

*Kathleen Sebelius*

Governor Kathleen Sebelius

*Edward G. Rendell*

Governor Edward G. Rendell

*Anibal Acevedo Vila*

Governor Anibal Acevedo Vila

*Jim Doyle*

Governor Jim Doyle

*Frank H. Murkowski*

Governor Frank H. Murkowski

*Phil Bredesen*

Governor Phil Bredesen

*Michael F. Easley*

Governor Michael F. Easley

*John Hoeven*

Governor John Hoeven

*Jon Huntsman Jr.*

Governor Jon Huntsman Jr.

*M. Michael Rounds*

Governor M. Michael Rounds

*Kenny Guinn*

Governor Kenny Guinn

*Mitch Daniels*

Governor Mitch Daniels

*Bob Taft*

Governor Bob Taft



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Governor Brian Schweitzer



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Governor Dave Freudenthal



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Governor Donald L. Carcieri



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Governor Linda Lingle



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Governor Rick Perry